



Phillips' Forum



Chip, Laurie, Reed, Caleb, Alison

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What Do We Do?

Learning the Basics

Before coming to Brazil, we had the opportunity to study Portuguese in Lexington, KY. There we studied 6 hours a day and gained a fundamental understanding of the language. Since arriving in Brazil we have continued our studies with the same professor. However our classroom time is only 2 hours a day, four days a week. We initially thought this was insufficient, but have come to learn that much of our needed study is outside the classroom

Mechanics of Language Study

Our classtime is from 2-4 pm, Monday through Thursday. Outside the classroom we are responsible for completing exercises, writing projects, completing a series of lessons on cassette tape, reading Portuguese, and memorizing verses. We usually complete these requirements in the morning. In addition we have had extra projects such as helping to translate Chip's medical documents and creating a song manual for people using guitars in the outreach chapels.

However, the hardest part of language learning is taking what we learn and trying to apply it.

Using What We Learn

This has been the part of language learning that has been most difficult for us. The book work is relatively easy to understand when you consider each part of Portuguese grammar and pronunciation individually. However, it is another thing when you try to make yourself understood--especially over the phone.

To use what we are learning we have done the following: work with the music in an outreach chapel, have people over for a meal at least once a week, have neighborhood children over to play, go out in the evening to talk with neighbors who sit in the street, attend a weekly group prayer meeting, attend "Couples Encounter," and swap recipes and food with neighbors.

Praise

- ✓ Children are adapting well to a Brazilian school.
- ✓ We are building more friendships with our neighbors.
- ✓ Chip's sinus/respiratory infection has cleared.

Prayer

- ✓ Our colleagues, the Koch's, await FUNAI approval for visa processing.
- ✓ Processing of Chip's medical paperwork.
- ✓ Witness to our neighbors, the Façanhas & Lúcia.
- ✓ Chip's involvement in the Tancredo Neve Chapel.

Chip and Medicine

Recently Caleb needed to be started on medication for ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder). Caleb's doctor offered for Chip to assist him once a week. Chip goes on Friday afternoons to learn medical "lingo."

This doctor also helped Chip start on the processing of his medical papers for a Brazilian MD license. This was a real blessing since Chip learned the Univ. of Amazonas now

only evaluate foreign diplomas once a year--in April. Some papers had to be sent to the NY consulate first and he has had "just enough time." PTL.

Chip has also treated a number of minor conditions for friends and neighbors including warts, minor fungal skin infections, and infections near the fingernail. He also has stiched some cuts-- even did one on our living room floor.

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Our Weekly Schedule

This is a general overview of our current lives. We hope this helps you “get a feel” for our lives and pray for us more effectively.

Sunday

7:00 Rise and shine, breakfasts, etc.
 9:00-11:30 Sunday morning seminary classes
 12:00 Lunch
 7:30 Sunday evening service

Monday - Thursday

6:00 Rise and shine, breakfasts, etc.
 7:00 Kids’ school begins (>10 min. late and you’re not allowed in!)
 Morning Laurie and I study at home and do jobs around the house, cook, clean and shop. The activities of daily living take much more time here.
 12:00 Lunch
 1:00 Leave to get bus for language class
 2:00-4:00 Language classes
 4:00 Catch bus back to where we live
 5:00 Pick up the children from school
 Evening Children play with neighbors (usually at our home), we catch up on other jobs and studies

Friday

6:00 Rise and shine, breakfast, etc.
 7:00 Kids’ school begins
 Morning This is usually the day Chip goes down town by bus to exchange money, shop, and work on documents.
 2:00-4:00 Chip assists in a local pediatric clinic
 7:30-9:00 “Couples Encounter” at church

Saturday

3:00-4:00 Laurie is getting ready to start a club for children in our neighborhood.
 7:30-9:00 Chip helps with the music at an outreach chapel about 45 minutes by bus from our home.

Cleanliness and Culture

We initially thought of the Amazon as a hot, humid, dirty area. Although it is hot and humid here, we have been delighted to find that Amazonenses are very clean people. They are so clean that at times we feel unable to meet their standards! Here are some examples.

Showers: Taken at least once a day. Body odor is non-existent-- a blessing on crowded buses.

Floors: Usually cleaned at least once a day. Many people take their shoes off before going in side. You could eat off most floors.

Eating with your hands: This is rarely done. Sandwiches are eaten with napkins, fried chicken with a knife and fork, and apples at times are held with a fork! In the US we eat with our hand so much that it has been hard to adjust.

Finger and toenails: Always kept clean. Our neighbors often have a manicurist working on their nails while we talk with them. The cleanliness of their feet is more pronounced because of the number of people wearing sandals. It is also common for men and women to wear nail polish (men wear clear).

Trash collection: Everyday except Sunday and holidays. There is rarely the smell of trash even in this tropical climate. One problem is the dogs and cats that roam the streets and tear open the trash bags. We are always cleaning up the sidewalk by our house to keep it clean.

Shoes: Always clean. Scrubbed regularly. White shoes are reserved for special occasions because they are hard to keep clean.

Pots and pans: Scrubbed until immaculate after every use and put on display.